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New Haven

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Somers Prisoners Take the Warden to Court

By Tom Nelson

In Febuary of 1973, a group of male inmates in the Somers prison started talking about the fact that there was no organized way for them to present grievances to the administration of the prison.

The men also felt that they had legitimate complaints about treatment from the guards, ranging from arbitrary harassment to simply making the prison a 'hell hole' in which to live. They also hoped to minimize and respond to the racial tension that was tearing the prison apart.

Racial Aspect Big Concern

Their belief was that a multi-racial association of prisoners could help handle the fights and the hassles. The organizers of the idea for a prisoners' union have always been multiracial. The racial aspect of prison life is a major concern of the Somers Prisoners' Union (SPU).

Basically their goals are the rationalization of the prison system, and the expansion of its educational opportunities. But prisoners had to ask permission to form an association like this--and they did not get it. The SPU is now represented by the law firm of Roraback, Williams & Avery of New Haven. They filed a class action suit in federal court on behalf of all men in prison at Somers. The defendants are the warden of Connecticut State Prison at Somers, and the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Corrections, Mr John R. Manson. There are six named plaintiffs.

There are two basic ways that a courtroom struggle for the SPU could take place-- one is analagous to a collective bargaining struggle,

and the other involves the affirmation of the right to have an association.

The SPU is claiming that they have a **Constitutionally guaranteed right** to form an association with officers, bylaws, meetings among themselves, proposals, and the opportunity to discuss matters with the prison administration.

The SPU is **not presently** making a case to get the prison administration to go into collective bargaining. The defendants in this case, Mr. Manson and Mr. Robinson, seem to want the public to believe that this is the type of request the SPA is making, and that to grant the request would threaten the security of the prison.

The defendants are also claiming that the SPU would be a threat to security in that the union would be dominated by 'long termers' who would use the SPU for their own purposes through eventual 'power brokering.'

The main claim of the defendants is that they **feel** that an association would be a threat to security. No evidence of the danger has been offered beyond the theories and fears of the prison administration. This speculation is dressed up in the claim of 'professional judgment' (which is generally a clever courtroom maneuver by professional administrators).

There was a hearing in April, during which the SPU called as witnesses three inmates and two experts who supported the idea. Mr Donald Goff, a respected past secretary of the American Correctional Assocition, spoke favorably of the association.

A witness from Rhode Island spoke of the success of the Rhode Island prisoners' association. There are perhaps a dozen states with prisoners' associations, and the prevailing literature in the field argues convincingly that participation is valuable for both the prisoners and the institution, in terms of inmate associations.

The general argument of the SPU is:

--Just because persons are in prison, it should not mean that they lose their First Amendment rights. Persons in prison should retain all of the Constitutional rights that persons outside the

see SOMERS, page 3

Dietary Workers Refuse to Serve as Yale Scabs

by 1199 Union Member

What is a scab? A scab is someone who takes the job of someone on strike , or who does their work. A scab takes money out of the pocket and food out of the mouth of a striker. In union ranks, there is no thing lower than a scab.

That is why the 1199ers in Dietary refuse to do the work of Yale University workers who are on strike. On Friday 31 May, there was a lot of extra work in the Main Kitchen. The workers discovered that all this extra cooking was for the Yale Alumni weekend. This work would normally be done by members of Local 35, who are now on strike against Yale.

Of course, the Hospital tried to slip this fact past the Dietary workers. But we were too quick for them. And we were not about to become scabs. The union representative and the two Main Kitchen stewards informed everyone of what was happening and told us not do the extra work. The work stopped immediately. The union representative and stewards went directly to see Mr Grubbs, the Personnel Director. They informed him that no union members would do the work of strikers. Mr Grubbs said that he didnt want a confrontation with Local 1199. He agreed to pull all union members off the extra work.

From that moment on, the supervisors, dietitians, head dietitians and even the Department Head could be seen scurrying bout the kitchen trying to get the work done. It was refreshing to see how hard they could work, when pushed!

Fair Haven Children Present Play

Ed Breuler

An inner city group of children, who have never been exposed to any form of stage performance are working hard to guarantee a marvelous musical presentation of Pinocchio. The students range from a first grader to eighth graders. Performances will be held at Strong school on June 14 and 15. Admission is free. The presentation os totally sponsored by the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation.

Health Care In the City pages 4 & 5

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eye on the board Aldermen Take Up Three Issues

Nick Heyer

At the June 4 meeting of the Board of Aldermen, Frank Logue(D-18) supported action prohibiting the use of lead based paint in the home.

by Andy Esposito
Modern Times Staff

Three major actions were taken by the Board of Aldermen at their June 4 meeting. First, they passed a firm anti-lead paint ordinance. Secondly, they refused to investigate the financial mess at the New Haven Coliseum. And, thirdly, they issued a statement on the Yale strike.

After a ridiculously long delay, the board passed, by a 27 to 0 vote, an ordinance designed to protect children from the hazards of lead paint poisoning. The fight for a strong measure was led by Frank Logue (D-18) and James Perillo (D-7).

The ordinance, the result of a year long legislative struggle, forbids the use of lead-based paint on areas of the home used for human occupancy. Additionally, the law requires the removal of cracked, chipped, or peeling paint.

Also, a notice of violation of the lead paint law would be recorded on the land records of the city. This provision would protect a prospective home buyer from unknowingly purchasing a dwelling which is in violation of the law.

An amendment, presented by Logue, requiring the owner-occupant of a property to eliminate lead paint, even if a plea of insufficient funds was made, was also approved.

The unanimous vote, passing the anti-lead paint measure, capped a sustained effort, over the last few months, by two local citizens groups. The Connecticut Citizens Research Group and Citizens Against Lead had been applying pressure, on the aldermanic legislative committee, on behalf of the anti-lead bill. Their constant urging, forced the board into finally siding with the city's children; rejecting the efforts of the real estate industry to water-down the measure.

Coliseum Investigation

The Alderpeople failed to act as responsibly when they debated a request to investigate the financial condition of the New Haven Coliseum. Roslind Berman (R-29) in requesting the investigation, cited the $25,900 loss incurred by the South Orange Street facility for the first nine months of the current fiscal year. She also questioned the spending of $5,000 in what was a mild winter, for snow removal.

The Coliseum's operation was defended by Eldridge Davis (D-21); a member of the Coliseum Commission. He strongly objected to Berman's call for an investigation stating that there was no wrongdoing in the facility's operations. Davis did express a willingness to meet with Berman and her Republican colleagues to explain Coliseum operations.

According to Alderman Logue, the board has the power to issue subpoenas. Thus, he said, the board doesn't need to appoint a special committee.

Given this fact of subpoena power, it is difficult to understand why the board doesn't use it. Thus, by a voice vote the Alderpeople rejected Berman's request.

Yale Strike

Finally, in a rare show of compassion for working people, the board unanimously voted to request that the issues in the Yale strike be submitted to a non-binding fact finder. Logue, who offered the resolution, stated: "The continuance of the strike represents an increased financial burden for the City of New Haven and there appears to be no progress towards settling the strike."

Local 35, Federation of University Employees, quickly accepted the proposal. However, Yale, in its typical high handed fashion, rejected the plea.

school notes
Grades System of City Schools Should Flunk

by Ruth Hein

Every year parents become concerned about the arbitrary methods used to communicate their children's "progress" in school. Whenever they have taken their questions to the authorities, they have been told that a panel of administrators is "studying" the situation and will come up with a "plan" to make everything all right.

This committee, allegedly headed by Dr. Jessie Bradley, has not so far been visible in the schools, has not consulted parents or students, and has not reported out any findings.

At present, it seems, the system used in the city is uniform for all grades above third. All students receive quarterly report cards with letter grades in all subjects. In the junior and senior high schools the process is further refined. The reports are computerized, so that even those teachers who might be moved to communicate a personal evaluation are frustrated.

The High School in the Community, New Haven's only public alternative high school, provides the one exception to this rule. There students are given quarterly written evaluations in each of their subjects.

Lower Grades Mishmash

What happens in the lower grades differs from school to school -- even from teacher to teacher. Most frequently, teachers send home some kind of sentence evaluation under subject rubrics, such as "Social Studies: Good. Participates in class discussion." Sometimes, however, a teacher will assign letter grades even to first- and second-graders.

Moreover, if the form used lists subjects that are not taught--well, a grade might be applied there, too. (Of course, the teacher can always argue, they do too teach "Art": remember the Mother's Day card the first-grader pasted together?) Still other primary-grade teachers will not issue any written progress report. Thus one and the same child might bring home letter grades from first grade, an evaluative report from second, and nothing at all during his third year.

Grading Meaning Less

The official ideology has it that grading is meaningless in the primary years; that evaluation should be imparted in face-to-face meetings between teachers and parents. What happens in practice, however, is that none of the methods mandates or promotes such meetings.

Rather teachers are apt to call in the parent of a child they wish to criticize--as an "underachiever," a "disruptive personality," or whatever. They seldom feel the need to communicate with the families of children who, by the teachers' standards, are performing adequately or better. Thus there is really no mechanism by which the parent and the teacher collaborate on evaluating the student's participation and progress.

But what exactly has the parent (or the student) learned when the report card shows an A in English and a C in math? The quick assumption is that the student is gifted in verbal skills and untalented for numbers. Such beliefs often become self-fulfilling prophecies, the result of raised and lowered expectations. An adult can therefore look back over many years of report cards and justifiably feel that the evaluations have always been correct, that his schooling has supported his natural abilities.

Machinists Start the Gears Turning

The newly formed District 170 of the International Association of Machinists is supervising negotiations for six contracts due to expire over the next month.

These include: IAM lodge 609 at Olin in New Haven, IAM Lodge 966 at Henry C. Thomson SAW in Branford, Lodge 1990 at New England Dye Casting in East Haven, Lodge 2037 at High Standard in Hamden, Lodge 1337 at Timex in Waterbury and a wage reopener at Hamilton-Standard.

District 170 is a newly formed amalgamation of IAM locals. For the first time the smaller locals are getting more support and contracts can be better negotiated and enforced. All of the negotiations are still in the early stages and any breakthrough or deadlock will be reported by *Modern Times*.

Striker Finds Yale's Smooth Talk No Substitute for Security or Raises

by Andy Esposito
Modern Times Staff

Four hours a day, five days a week, week in, cold and heat, in rain and sunshine, between 11 am and 3 pm, Irving R. Nixon pickets in front of the Yale power plant on Ashmun Street. On June 4 we spoke with him about one of the issues in the current strike of Local 35, Federation of University Employees, against Yale University.

Nick Heyer

Irving R. Nixon, a picket captain for Local 35, gives his impressions of the current strike at Yale.

"The most important issues," said Mr. Nixon, "are wages and the cost of living adjustment, what we call COLA. Yale also wants to be able to fire people for what they call excessive absences, regardless of the reason a worker has for being out".

We asked how long he thought the strike would last. "That's hard to say," he replied. "With classes over for the summer and with reunions over, it might last until September. If Yale wanted to bargain in good faith, we wouldn't have had to walk out."

The fact that we are picketing shows Yale 's bad faith in negotiations. If Yale wanted to settle there would have been no strike in the first place."

Nixon described Embersits, Director of University Operations, as follows.

"He is a young man who comes around the picket lines and talks with the strikers. He tries to smooth talk them. I've talked to him and he's very anti-labor."

With that comment, Irving Nixon returned to his duties as a Picket Captain on the eleven to three shift.

money talks

Yale's Gloved Hand Is Out For $

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

Yale University launched two big campaigns this Spring, one only slightly less obscene than the other. There was an important link between the two: both had to do with hustling money.

The first campaign was to squeeze money out of Yale's workers by forcing a strike of Local 35's 1100 members. The second campaign was to squeeze money out of Yale's rich friends, which goes by the fancy name of "The Campaign for Yale."

The Campaign for Yale aims to raise $370 million in the period from Spring, 1974, through the Fall of 1977. That works out to more than $250,000 per day, seven days a week for 3½ years

In a very expensive, 48-page booklet published to flatter the richies into shelling out, Yale President Kingman Brewster, Jr. made a very interesting statement about why Yale must get those millions.

Foundations not Shaken

Brewster, Jr. starts by boasting how Yale goes right along despite the troubles and changes upsetting most people these days. Consider these modest words: "But even the shocks of radical social change have not altered our mission. Our foundations have not been shaken." He then reminds his readers of what's so good about Yale: "the pride of continuous leadership for almost three centuries;" or "our alumni leaders in business and finance, as well as in 'church and civil state'." Brewster clinches his argument by calling on his readers to remember that "anyone who passes through Yale's halls knows by feeling, as well as by thought, that the best of civilization" lurks there somewhere. Obviously, Brewster, Jr. is sure that flattery will get him everywhere ($370 million to be exact.)

Brewster turns next to a brief summary of Yale's philosophy: "Freedom stands a better chance if political and economic power are kept separate." Funny, every time Yale pushes New Haven to change its tax laws or zoning regulations or other practices, it starts by reminding the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen about Yale's "economic contribution" to the city, that is to say Yale's economic power. Yale uses economic power to wield political power – just like all other rich corporations and individuals. Yet Yale puts up a big, fake smokescreen in lofty phrases about freedom. But Brewster knows what he's doing. Those rich friends of Yale must love to hear the trash.

Aristocracy of Talent

Finally Brewster expresses what he feels is the essence of what Yale is trying to do. Yale must maintain "an aristocracy of talent, for that is the way we can serve the nation best." All of us might ask whether Brewster thinks that New Haven is part of that nation he is busily serving?

With enough money, continues Brewster, Yale can "be first-class in everything it undertakes to do." All of us might ask whether that "everything" includes providing decent wages to Yale workers or doing its share for the city in which it is located. But then we do know the answer.

Brewster glows as he writes: "We have resisted the impersonal bigness of the so-called multi-versity;" and "We are organized as a republic rather than a bureaucracy dependent on routine and command." This is almost too much to take. Does resisting impersonal bigness mean hiring two union-breakers from the huge Inland Steel Corporation to handle employee relations? Is this phony "republic" any different from ancient Athens, Sparta or Rome, when the republic was great for the minority who were "citizens" and horrible for the majority who were called slaves.

Brewster and Yale are two-faced in what they say because they have a tough job to pull off. They sit on top of the work of workers whom they squeeze directly in New Haven and indirectly all over the world through the gifts they get from other squeezers. Yet they have to concoct a pretty mask to cover it all over with high-sounding nonsense. This is what makes Yale campaigns obscene.

Somers

continued from page 1

prison possess.

--The only time to appropriately limit Constitutional rights should be when the person's conduct is clearly an immediate threat to the security of the institution.

The Somers Prisoners Union is an attempt to organize a prisoners' association within a system of massive and arbitrary power. Attorney Mike Avery and law students Denise Johnson and Ken McHargh are the persons handling the legal case. The members of the SPU designated as plaintiffs are Weuse Paka, Louis Cofone, Daniel Marquez, Tommy Hart, Roger Lubesky and Louis Rogue. A followup article will be submitted when a decision is handed down.

Common Gas Brings Deadly Results

by Connecticut Occupational Health and Safety Project

Vinyl chloride gas is one of the most widespread chemicals manufactured and used in the United States. It is also highly dangerous. Nearly everyone comes into contact with some form of vinyl chloride. It is a common ingredient in aerosol sprays, and it can be converted into polyvinyl chloride (PVC) powder, which is used in the manufacture of thousands of plastic products.

Cancer of the liver is now thought to be the consequence of long-term exposure to vinyl chloride. Six deaths, from a very rare liver cancer, have been reported among workers at a single B.F. Goodrich plant in Louisville, Kentucky. An additional seven cases of liver cancer have occurred among other vinyl chloride workers in the U.S. An abnormally high rate of severe liver disease was also discovered among workers molding PVC tiles in West Germany and in Belgium.

Why It's Dangerous

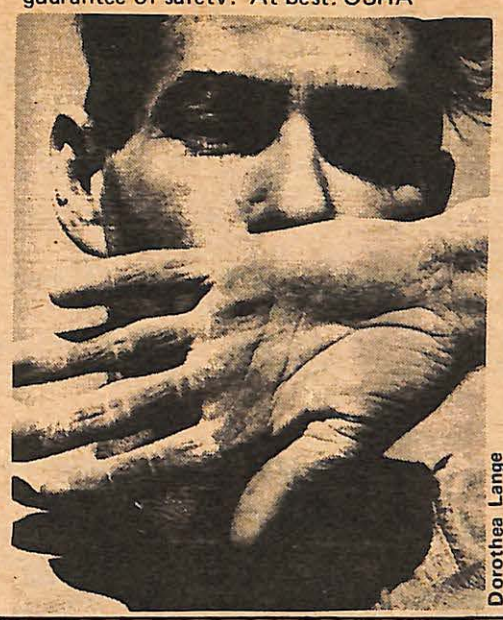
Vinyl chloride, or PVC, most commonly enters the body as fumes produced in molding, pressing, or cutting plastic products during manufacture. These fumes, and aerosol sprays used in the home, are breathed in through the nose and mouth, travel down to the lungs, and from there are absorbed into the blood. These fumes may irritate the breathing passages, causing conditions such as "meatwrappers asthma." This results from breathing fumes created when hot wires cut and seal PVC meat wrapping.

Once in the blood, vinyl chloride and PVC can go anywhere in the body. Interference with the functioning of the liver by chemicals, such as vinyl chloride, has a devastating effect on the body. Vinyl chloride fumes can also damage skin, blood vessels, lungs and bones.

OSHA Lacks Power

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards regulate the amount of vinyl chloride allowable in the air. Even the maximum permissible levels causes cancer in mice. Since the scare over the "Louisville 6," OSHA has set an emergency standard one tenth that of the previous one, at 50 parts of vinyl chloride gas per million parts of air.

In fact, a truly safe level of vinyl chloride is unknown. The complete elimination of vinyl chloride fumes from the *working atmosphere is the only sure* guarantee of safetv. At best. OSHA standards are political compromises and are rarely enforced. Standards do exist on ventilation in the workplace, and strict enforcement of these would help reduce the danger of toxic fumes.



Dorothea Lange

Effective Control

Effective organization of labor is the surest way to gain safe workplaces. The United Rubber Workers, who are continually exposed to dangerous chemical fumes, have done just that. In 1971, they set up, with Harvard University School of Public Health and the B.F. Goodrich Company, a Joint Occupational Health Program.

This launched a complete and thorough examination of plant conditions and of company and union records and regular tests on each work were begun. The record of improvement in working conditions *since the research work began has* been impressive.

This type of extensive study is needed to detect dangers to workers, especially from slow-acting substances like vinyl chloride. The effects of slow-acting hazards may not appear until after many years of exposure. Then it is difficult to make the connection between a disease and the substance that slowly caused it.

The health of workers who have already contributed many years to a company rarely concerns management. Until such measures as the Joint Occupational Health Program are universal, workers will be sacrificed for plastic profits. Dr. Irving Selikoff, a well-known occupational physician, says, "If vinyl chloride is present where you are a human being – it should not be there or you shouldn't be there."

Socialist Candidate for Mayor in 1947 Ran for Businesslike Reform

by Modern Times Staff

This is the second in a series of articles about Socialists in New Haven politics. In the first article (Modern Times, April 15, 1974) we described the 1947 mayoralty campaign by the Socialist candidate.

Alfred E. Tong was an unlikely candidate for the Socialist Party. Although his father had emigrated from England, young, poor and orphaned, and had worked as a laborer in Canada, he was able to put himself through Middlebury College, open the "Yale Business College," and eventually become the Secretary-Treasurer of Lomas and Nettleton, the real estate development firm.

His son Alfred was born in New Haven in 1910. (The site of his former home, on Howard Avenue between Davenport and Congress is now...guess what...a parking lot for Yale-New Haven Hospital!) He went to Hillhouse High, to the exclusive Mount Hermon school in Massachusetts and spent two years studying Business Administration at Davidson College, in North Carolina. He returned to New Haven and worked as an inspector at the "Safety Car and Heating and Lighting Company" in Hamden.

Attracted to Socialists

During the 12 year reign of Democrat John Murphy, Tong thought of joining the Republican party, but a friend invited him to a meeting of the Socialist Party and Tong was attracted to them.

Tong's entrance into socialist politics was prompted not only by the visible suffering caused by the Depression, but also by the corrupt and incompetent misadministrations of the local political machines. As much as anything else, Tong was repelled by "disgraceful bossism", by the unbusinesslike self-serving rule of the politicans, which prevent competent city employees from providing the citizens of New Haven with honest, efficient government.

Al Tong's definition of municipal socialism was "Businesslike administration for the good of the people." He believed that city government was big business and that corrupt politicians were wasting the tax-payers dollars. He tried to sell "good, honest, businesslike government" to the voters of New Haven. This meant according to the 1947 platform, merit system in city employment, fair re-assessment of property and a central purchasing bureau.

Al Tong was "desperately afraid of organization." He believed that any party organization--Socialist, Democratic, Republican--would hamper an administration that a successful candidate would be indebted to his party's membership, and that it would make demands for jobs and favors. He believed that party organization was a prime cause of the inability of the democrats and republicans to run the city in the interests of the city's residents. Thus, in his own campaigns, Al Tong did not stress building an organization. Instead, he tried to appeal directly to the voter.

His goal was to legitimize socialism in the eyes of the voters, making a vote for the Socialist Party appear as a responsible alternative to a vote for the Democrat or Republican Parties. Using his gift of public speaking, he attending all possible public hearings, carefully prepared himself and presented reasonable alternatives to the existing politics. He devoted himself to political activity and to the study of municipal government, and ran for Mayor of New Haven five times. He worked long and hard, "tilling the soil...preparing the ground." His goal was to become mayor of New Haven, and in 1947 he came as close as he ever would receiving 11,000 votes from its citizens

To be continued: Tong's Platform and Campaigning.

Illness Is Healthy Biz

by David Wessell
Modern Times Staff

Close to $200 million was spent on health care in the New Haven area in 1972 according to a recently released study conducted by New Haven Health Care Inc (NHHC). And the total for this year is undoubted substantially higher than that due to inflation, which has hit health care costs harder than some other sectors of the economy.

More than half--53 percent--of the $192 million spent in the area came from local, state, and federal governments despite the fact that the United States is still without comprehensive national health insurance. Patient out of pocket costs (those not paid by the government or insurance) totaled over $28 million. Another large chunk --$47 million--came from Blue Cross and private insurance companies.

Where did all this money go! The study revealed that just over half of it--$98.2 million--went to the three area hospitals Yale-New Haven, St Raphael's and the Veterans Administration Hospital. The Yale School of Medicine took in over $27 million. Area doctors and dentists received over $28 million. And over $7 million went to local pharmacies.

As NHHC Board Chairman Bruce Arneil, a local architect, asked in a speech he made in mid-May, 'Why is $200 million spent in a fragmented system with so little direction from consumer's and community leaders?'

Government Pays Nursing Homes

One of the most interesting facts discovered by the NHHC staff was that 90 percent of the $10.2 million spent on nursing home care in the New Haven area comes from the federal government! Fully 68 percent comes from Medicaid, 7 percent from Medicare and 15 percent from Social Security. Many of these area nursing homes--which are receiving almost all their income from tax money--are nototious for their low wages and anti-union attitudes, especially directed at Hospital Workers of Local 1199, not to mention the less than adequate medical care provided by some of them. Many of the nursing homes are profit-making businesses. This is a false version of socialized medicine which subsidizes profit making doctors, nursing homes, etc. rather than subsidizing low income families who can't afford decent health care.

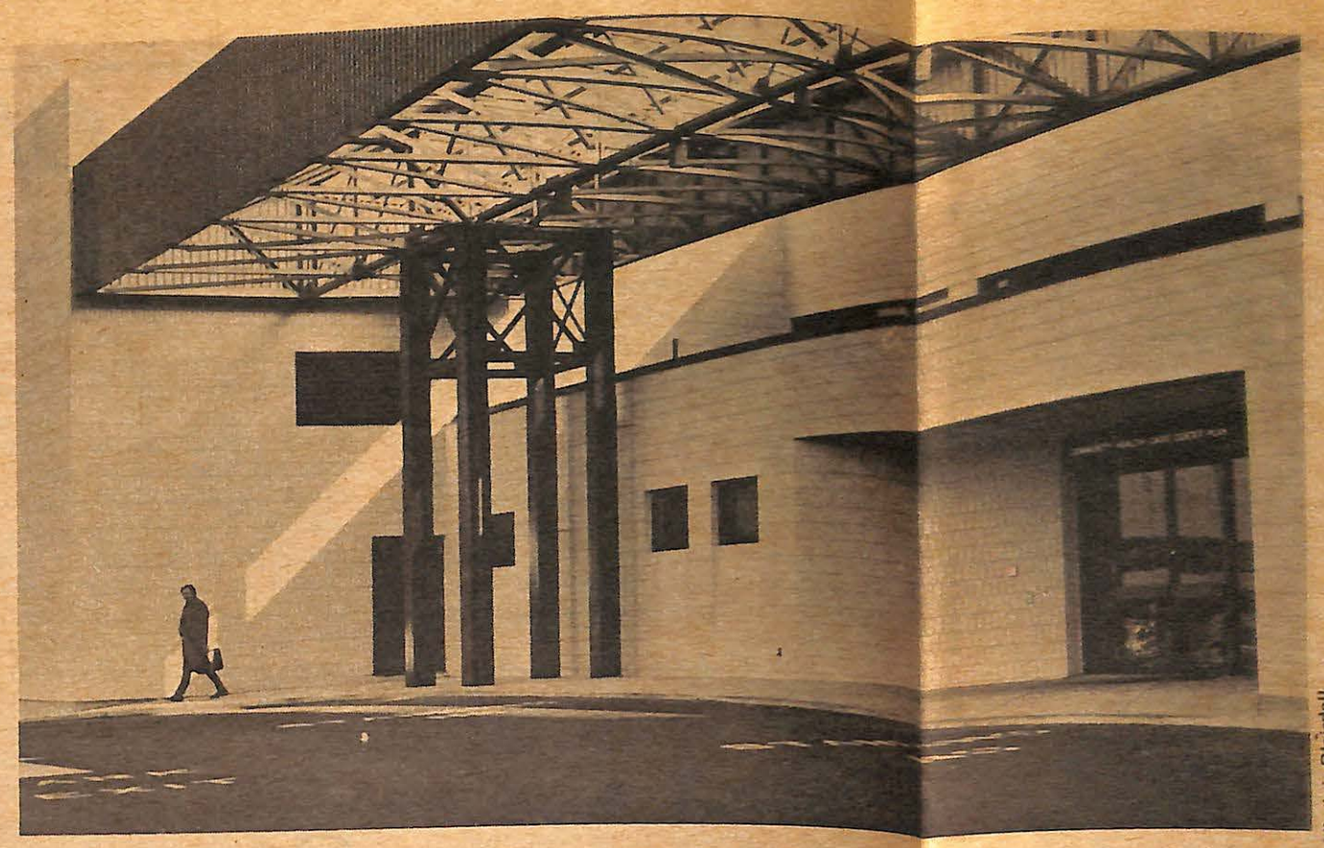
One of the most dramatic changes in the health care system in New Haven in recent years has been the growth of Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). In a HMO, people (or their employers) prepay a set fee, then receive most of their health care from the HMO at no extra cost.

Things Changed Fast

In 1968, no one belonged to such an organization but by 1971 2500 people were using the Community Health Care Plan (CHCP) at Long Wharf and 17,500 Yale connected persons were using the Yale Health Plan (YHP). And in 1973, 10,000 were served by CHCP and 19,600 were served by YHP.

In addition, the Hill Health Center--which has similarities with the two HMOs but does not yet offer prepaid service--served only 268 people in 1968, over 20 times that many (5500) in 1971, and over 30 times that many (8500) in 1973.

New Haven Health Care Inc is a private, nonprofit corporation funded by the federal government which is supposed to develop and execute a 'management plan' for all the health services in the New Haven area.



Virginia Blaisdell

The Community Health Care Plan building on Long Wharf

CHCP Takes Pains to Insure Good Care

by Florie Ricciuti and Matt Borenstein

We became members of the Community Health Care Plan (CHCP) last September. Our experience over the last nine months has shown us the benefit and security of competent and sensitive, comprehensive medical care.

CHCP is a comprehensive health care organization with a medical center located on Long Wharf in New Haven. Each member is entitled to preventive health care, regular visits to a doctor, medical tests, emergency health care, hospitalization, prenatal and postnatal services and 70% discount on prescriptions. In short, complete medical service.

CHCP was set up through the efforts of the New Haven Central Labor Council and is the first and only organization of its kind in Connecticut.

One of us (MB) is a New Haven teacher and CHCP is a health benefit option in the contract with the Board of Education. Although this option has been in the contract since 1971, the city did not honor this commitment until September 1973.

Health Check

The first thing we did upon joining CHCP was to get a health check (usually called a physical). At CHCP you get a lab check (blood test, urine specimen, X-ray) before making an appointment to see a physician. That way, the doctor will have all your 'internal' data when making the 'external' physical examination.

In addition, it enables you as a patient to easily find the results of these laboratory tests. In most physical examinations the results of lab tests are clouded in mystery and you feel that either they lost your urine sample among the many yellow bottles or you have some incurable blood disease.

When we arrived for our lab tests, Florie asked for a pregnancy check. This was arranged within 10 minutes. The X-ray technician, on overhearing the request for the pregnancy test, refused to give Florie a chest x-ray (X-rays can possibly damage the baby in the early stages of pregnancy). (The results of the pregnancy test were positive.)

Other Visits

The next thing we did was to have eye examinations and Florie got new glasses at a reduced rate at the CHCP optician. She was also referred to the opthalmologist. When she arrived for that appointment, the opthalmologist apologized that Florie had had to take time off from work as he saw no problem at all with her eyes.

Florie began monthly visits with the CHCP obstetricians. There are three obstetricians on the staff and each one makes an examination during the term of the pregnancy so as to be able to handle the delivery if on hospital call at the time.

Matt had two minor emergencies which were handled with efficiency and understanding by CHCP.

One night in the winter he stepped on a rusty nail while breaking a piece of wood with his foot.

Upon calling CHCP the next morning, he came to CHCP for a tetanus shot—a 10 minute transaction--no doctor was necessary and no wait was needed. Another time he received a bad cut at work. He called CHCP. They said come right over-- a doctor examined and a nurse bandaged and took blood pressure.

Another ten minute medical event. Imagine what would happen at the emergency room of the hospital.

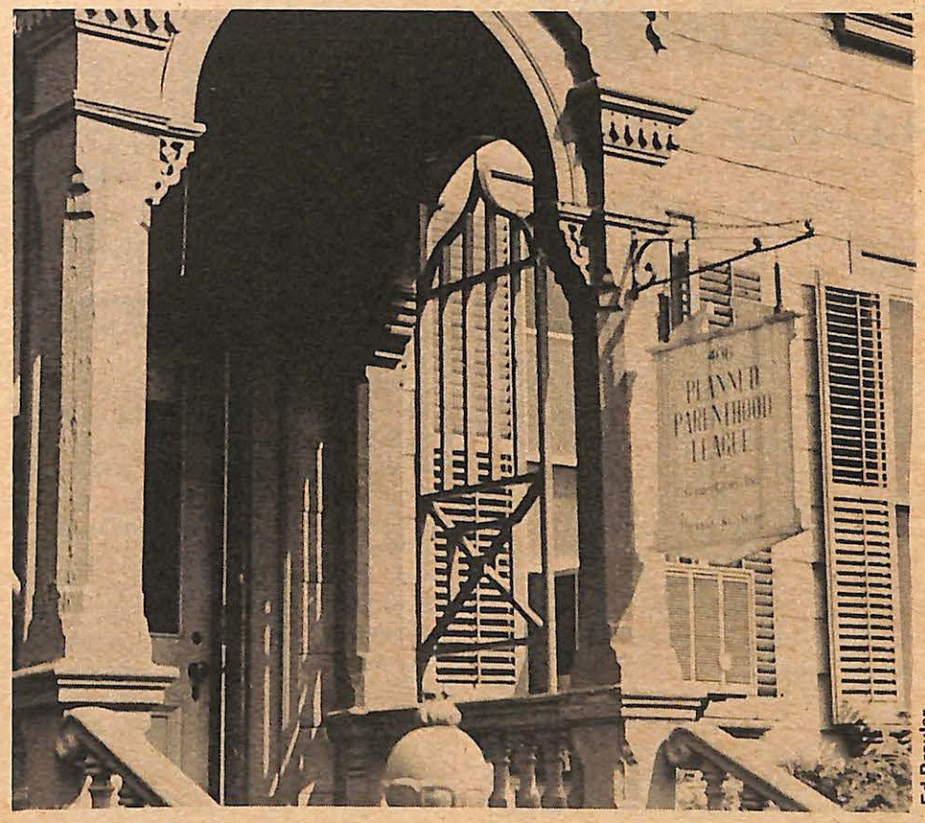
The last event to report is the birth of our child. About one month before birth, we chose a pediatrician from the CHCP staff. We then had a one hour interview and talked about hospital procedure, our family medical history and theories of child raising.

The night of delivery, the CHCP doctor was on the spotand did an excellent job in delivering the baby-- Jason. The next day the pediatrician arrived at the hospital and examined the baby in front of us. In addition, the CHCP primary care nurse visited each day in the hospital to help with the care of the baby.

Florie had a private room at Yale-New Haven and excellent care-- the total cost to us was $23.40.

A Relief

Living without the fear of medical catastrophe and with a competent understanding medical service is a relief to us--especially now that we have a child. It also opens the possibility and vision of such care for all Americans. The National Health insurance bill being pushed by the AFL-CIO would provide CHCPs for all citizens (called 'health maintenance organizations'). Kennedy and other Congressional supporters have dropped this bill and moved to a more conservative "catastrophic" health care package. Our experience has shown that sanity and well being as well as money saved in medical costs can't be beat.



Ed Breuler

The Planned Parenthood Center at 406 Orange Street provides contraceptive services and family planning counseling for residents of New Haven.

Planning Parents

For thirteen years the New Haven Planned Parenthood Center has been providing women with a full range of contraceptive services and family planning counseling. The clinic was first opened in 1961 as a test case for a suit brought before the supreme court seeking a declaratory statement on Connecticut's birth control laws.

In 1965 the law was overturned, but by that time the center had been making contraceptives and birth control information available to women of every economic level for 4 years.

All procedures and counseling is done at the 406 Orange St. building, which serves as the Demonstration Center for all Planned Parenthood Clinics throughout the state. The center has a paid staff of five, a full-time RN a part-time RN, 12 paid physicians and twenty-five volunteers.

With funds provided by a grant, last summer the New Haven clinic be-

see PLANNED, page 7

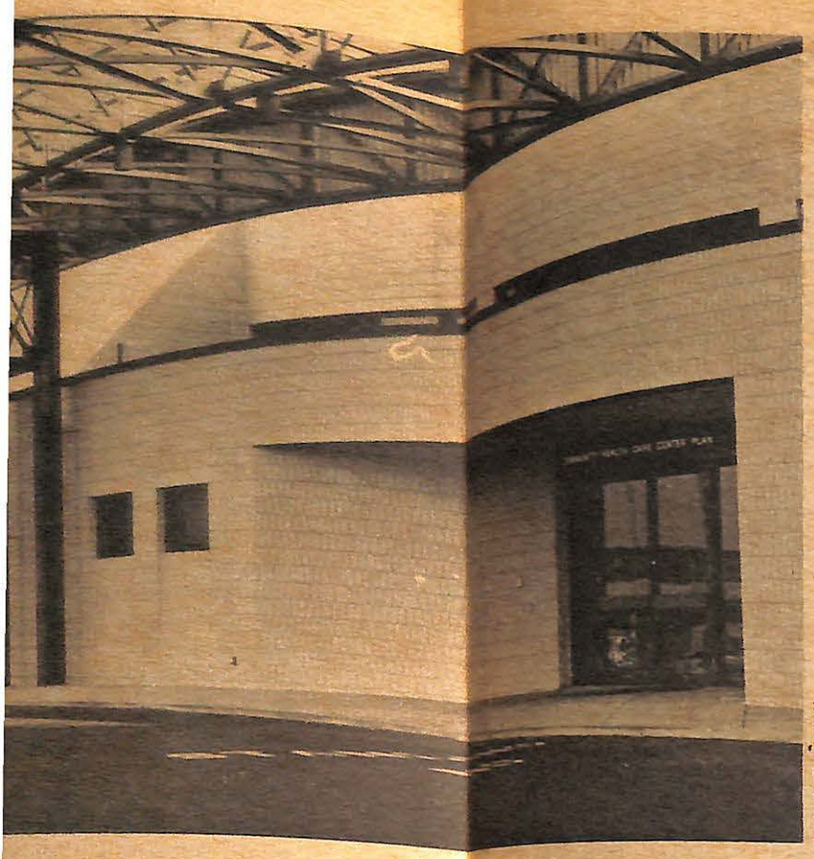
editorial

Less than ten years ago- in 1965 the average cost for one day in the hospital was around $45. Today it is over $100 per day. That is an increase of over 130 per-cent. Ten years ago, the average stay in the hospital cost on the average, $300. Today, it is about $800, an increase of 160 percent.

In 1965, the average cost of a visit to a general practictioner was between $6 and $7. Today, it is up to ten and even twenty in some areas. The cost of a specialist is double the rate of a general practictioner. Overall health costs have risen an average of 11.6 percent per year for the past several years. Health is the fastest rising item on the Consumer Price Index. There is no indication that this rise will be arrested.

Pres Nixon in his first year in office warned "unless action is taken, we will have a breakdown in our medical care system affecting millions". Unfortunately, the administration has done little to counter the health crisis. An example of this crisis is: Health expenditures per person in 1972 averaged $394, or for a family of four, $1,576. This is way above the means of most Americans. In key figures denoting the health of a nation's people, this country has fallen off sharply. In 1950, we had the fifth lowest infant mortality rate in the world. We are now 15th. Interestingly enough, all of the countries that are ahead of the U.S. in these and other major

see EDITORIAL, page 6



Virginia Blaisdell

h Care Plan building on Long Wharf

nsure Good Care

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last event to report is the
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en had a one hour interview
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ure, our family medical history and theories of child raising.

The night of delivery, the CHCP doctor was on the spotand did an excellent job in delivering the baby-- Jason. The next day the pediatrician arrived at the hospital and examined the baby in front of us. In addition, the CHCP primary care nurse visited each day in the hospital to help with the care of the baby.

Florie had a private room at Yale-New Haven *and excellent care-- the* total cost to us was $23.40.

A Relief

Living without the fear of medical catastrophe and with a competent understanding medical service is a relief to us--especially now that we have a child. It also opens the possibility and vision of such care for all Americans. The National Health insurance bill being pushed by the AFL-CIO would provide CHCPs for all citizens (called 'health maintenance organizations'). Kennedy and other Congressional supporters have dropped this bill and moved to a more conservative "catastrophic" health care package. Our experience has shown that sanity and well being as well as money saved in medical costs can't be beat.

ditorial

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see EDITORIAL, page 6

The Hill Health Center: A History

by Bob Kilpatrick
Hill Health Center

When the Hill Health Center opened its doors on Dec. 2, 1968, there had existed for years a poor health delivery system in the Hill neighborhood. In a community of 20,000 people--most of them poor or barely scraping by-- there were few doctors or dentists practicing privately. People had no choice but to go to the clinics and emergency room of Yale-New Haven Hospital where they faced long hours of waiting and overworked health professionals.

The enevitable result was a population that almost totally neglected its teeth, put off medical needs until they developed into emergencies, and was suffering from mental illnesses and emotional problems brought on by unbearable living conditions.

With its philosophy of preventive medicine, continuity of care, and personalized service, the Health Center set about to change the crisis-oriented health habits of the neighborhood, to persuade people to attend to their health regularly.

One important means by which this philosophy was to be realized was the team concept. Each patient was assigned to a team consisting of a variety of health professionals and para-professionals who would follow the progress of the family. Repeated appointments between the family and members of the team produced an atmosphere of friendship and trust.

The original plans for comprehensive health services had to be curtailed for a few years because the federal funds that arrived only overed health care for people under 21. However, the HEW grant was enough to enable the Center to offer free health care to that age group.

Personalized Care

Shortly after the Center opened, training began for a group of Community Health Workers. They were neighborhood residents who didn't have college degrees but who were familiar with the people and problems of the Hill. They would learn medical skills from the professional staff and assume the highly important role of advocate-intermediary to assist the relationship between the patient and the professional.

As the Center came to be recognized for its personal and quality care, Hill residents used its facilities in increasing numbers--ranging from several hundred in 1968 to 10,000-plus now.

Mindful of the serious breakdown in all kinds of health services in the Hill, the Center persistently expanded its services and tenaciously hung on to what it had. This maintaining and expanding process entailed fund-raising hassles which continue to this day. In fact, they are more serious than ever.

Services Expanded

In June 1970 adult services were begun on a limited basis. By the fall of 1973, three internists and supporting staff were on board and the Center began a campaign to change its image from one of a pediatric clinic to one of a family center, providing health care for the entire family from infant to grandmother.

In the meantime, a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health allowed the Center to open a much-needed mental health department with child psychiatrists and social workers.

Today the Center can offer the community a full range of services--pediatrics, adult medicine, dental, nursing, mental health, obstetrics-gynecology, family planning, nutrition counseling and a pharmacy.

Throughout the years, the Center has remained firmly in the control of the Hill community. Community authority over the Center was written into the by-laws when the Hill Health Corporation was formed in 1971: 28 directors, 18 of whom would be residents of the Hill.

New Dimensions

Several months ago, a new dimension was added--the WIC(Women,Infants, Children) program. It was started to supplement the diets of pregnant or lactating women and children up to the age of four. The need for such a program had been evident in the high rate of birth complications the Center handled, with

see HILL HEALTH, page 6

Nick Heyer

The Hill Health center made an improved difference in the health care for the residents of the Hill. Here, a staff doctor examines a patient.

Clinic Provides Healthy Atmosphere

by Ed Breuler
Modern Times Staff

Sixty-one years ago, Clifford Beers was released from Connecticut Valley Hospital, then known as Middletown. Upon his release he wrote a book, **Mind That Found Itself.** It was a story about his battle to overcome serious mental problems.

He also became interested in bringing to the communities in Connecticut a program that would enable people to obtain treatment for mental disturbances without going to Middletown. With this in mind, he founded the Mental Hygiene Association (MHA).

In the years that followed, the MHA expanded its purpose and became an overseer of all mental health programs in the state. The Clifford Beers Guidance Clinic became a reality and its primary function became

to provide mental health services for children and their families in the Greater New Haven area.

The clinic maintains a staff of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, educational specialists and child guidance workers. All of these specialists are committed to the promotion of mental health in the city. They accomplish this huge task through several well structured programs that work out of the clinic.

The first of the programs is referred to as the General Clinic. It provides psychological treatment for children as well as their families through individual and group therapy. It also reaches into the child's school and evaluates performance there, enabling the child[s entire physical and mental environment to be screened.

The clinic in its attempt to achieve well wounded treatment for the child has established strong connections with the school systems in this area. If a child has a particular problem in the school, the Learning Evaluation Team will screen the individual and make recommendation for treatment. In most cases, the recommendations are carried out.

In conjunction with the Housing Authority of New Haven, a team of specialists from the clinic set up a program in the Elm Haven Housing project at 53 Webster Street on Monday mornings.

In its early stages, the program was not a smashing success. But through the continuing efforts of the staff and the Tenants Resident Council, the program has picked up and proved to be a community success. Another clinic of the same type is now located in the West Rock area.

One program which has been met with the greatest success is the newly established walk-in program. Every Thursday between one and six in the afternoon, any family or child can walk in to the center and be seen. A staff of specialists interviews the walk-ins and determines if further treatment is necessary. At present, 20-30 families visit the clinic on Thursdays, showing a desperate need by this community for facilities to help in the treatment of disturbed children and their families.

brass tacks Power Profit Turns Off Public

By Mike Holodnak

People all across the state of Connecticut are revolting against the giant utilities. They are doing it, not by depending on their representatives in Hartford, but by taking the most practical step possible, which is to refuse to pay the added on fuel adjustment charges which are as costly as are the charges for the actual electricity used.

Spearheading the revolt were the union members of Local 209 United Electrical and Machine Workers of America (UE). In January 1974 they distributed more than 15,000 leaflets throughout the Bridgeport area calling for Congressional action on the "energy crisis".

Albert Cioffari, president of the 700 member UE local at Bryant Electric, described the public's reaction to the campaign, as "terrific".

He added that "everyone offered a leaflet accepted it" and " many people expressed outrage over gasoline shortages, increased prices for fuel oil and electric utilities adjustment rates.

Refuse To Pay Increases

In February, Cioffari asked his membership, the membership of all other unions, and the general public to "pay that part of your bill which refers to the actual electricity or gas you have used and taxes, *but refuse to pay the fuel adjustment costs.*" (emphasis added)

Cioffari stated that as long as the consumer pays for the actual service he has received and taxes, there can be no interruption of service.

Local 209's campaign also included a drive to get area residents to pressure their representatives in Washington to act on "rolling back prices of gasoline, fuel oils and other petroleum products."

By March 16, 1974 an estimated 20% of the 110,000 customers of the United Illuminating Company in the Bridgeport area had refused to pay the fuel adjustment portion of their monthly bills, with many more angry customers joining the revolt every month.

Senator Gunther Helps

Adding his voice to the revolt was State Senator George L. Gunther, (R-Stratford), who said that the cost of residual fuels has risen higher than the cost of the refined home heating oils.

One recommendation Sen. Gunther made was that all state utilities begin immediately to install anti-pollution devices to permit the use of high-sulphur, low cost power producing fuels such as coal.

Mandatory anti-pollution devices "should have been placed into effect three years ago -- long before the fuel crisis got out of hand," Sen. Gunther said. "If they had, the utilities would not be at the mercy of the oil companies."

Utilities Not Competitive

"If utilities were competitive," he added, "they would have found a 'way out' of the rising fuel cost problem...."

Comparison figures, compiled by Sen. Gunther, indicated a great disparity in the amount of fuel adjustment charges collected by the Connecticut Light and Power Company, the Hartford Electric Company and the United Illuminating Company.

The amount collected by UI jumped from over one million in 1971 to over $23 million in 1973, much higher than did the other two companies, even though each of the other companies serves more customers than UI.

Sen. Gunther further stated that the willingness of utilities to pay higher and higher prices for oil results in higher prices for everyone.

On top of all that, a veteran oil executive has claimed that UI is getting as little as 24% efficiency in the use of each gallon of residual oil.

UI Wants Profits

A UI spokesman, defending the fuel adjustment costs, said that without being able to pass along the rising costs of fuel to the customers, the utility's ability to attract the type of money it needs to remain financially healthy would decline steadily.

One of the unhealthy affects of keeping this profit-making monopoly healthy has been that the Bridgeport hospital had recently requested and received a $2 raise for all room rates to offset fuel adjustment rates. The Manchester Memorial Hospital and Middlesex Memorial Hospitals were given similar increases.

In addition to the direct fuel adjustment charges to the public, there is also the indirect charges passed onto the public by every business and institution in the state which has been affected by the fuel adjustment increases.

Public Hurt

In short, the public is being forced to pick up the tab for every monopoly's hair-brained scheme that keeps making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Workers and consumers are angry. They are now discovering that they can effectively stand up to powerful giant monopolies, by the simple act of uniting. Next they will be discovering, as so many municipalities have, how much cheaper electrical power can be when it is publicly owned.

Hill Health

continued from page 5

many of them because of poor nutrition. Through WIC, patients receive nutritional counseling and monthly checks for cheese, eggs, baby formula, cereal, milk and juice which can be used at participating stores.

In September the Center plans to offer to the public a pre-paid health plan--marking a new era of health care financing for low-income families. It's expected that the plan will also be offered to families outside the Hill neighborhood, which is a departure from the present practice of serving only Hill families.

These two short-range goals--relocation and prep pre-paid health plan--are being undertaken so that the Center can continue to provide high quality health care to a portion of Americans whose health needs have not been met in the past.

"You have grown old and gray in our employ. . . Let me present you with this bottle of hair dye. . ."

UE News/cpf

open line Black Unionists Meet In Detroit

by John Williams
Teamster Local 208

To the Editors:

As a member of the Teamsters Union and a Black Trade Unionist, I was a participant at the recent convention of the "Coaltion of Black Trade Unionists" which was held in Detroit on the date of May 3 - 5, 1974.

In discussing this convention with our mutual friend, Lucille Banta, it was suggested that I submit to you a report on my observations and conclusions on this occasion.

Enclosed please find this "special report", which I trust you may find of interest and usage.

With personal regards,

Yours truly,

John T. Williams

It was symbolic that the third annual convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, CBTU, should convene in Detroit.

Detroit has long been considered a Mecca for the Black worker, fleeing from poverty in the South. Coming there was a pilgrimage to the "North" for those seeking employment in the mushrooming auto industry, as well as the other industrial octopi.

But the pilgrimage became a hopeless nightmare as the ghettos of the "North" rapidly replaced the plantations of the "South," and it became obvious that the industrial assembly lines were not long enough to accommodate the Black worker.

Discrimination

The Black worker was rejected from the the assembly lines, discriminated against throughout the system and divided within the labor market.

Today, more than one and three quarters of a century since the movement of large numbers of blacks into highly industrialized areas, we find that blacks represent only 11.6% of the total work force, 12.4% of organized labor and 11.4% of the unorganzed work force.

According to an article appearing in the **Christian Science Monitor**, the labor force in this country is likely to grow from 84,256,000 in 1970 to 112 million in 1990. Less than one-third of the labor force is presently organized. The effect of this unorganized force is felt greater by Blacks and other minorities.

In all industries the median income of union year-round, fulltime workers exceeded those of comparable non-union workers by an average of $1,157.00 (US Department of Commerce)

Direct Relationship

The more than seven million unorganized black workers are directly related to the 7.4 million blacks below the poverty level ($4,137) which comprises about 32% of the black population in the country.

We find this unorganized work force standing in the unemployment lines, entrenced at the welfare councils and shackled to low paying jobs, without seniority, security: benefits or conditions.

This force also includes the 1.8 million domestic workers who are virtually enslaved under conditions of servitude.

This was the challenge confronting the 1250 delegates who came from the north, south, east and west to attend this convention. They came from 40 unions, and arrived by plane, train, bus and auto.

At the opening plenary session, William "Bill" Lucy, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of State and Municipal Employees set the tone for the conference by calling attention to the need for an organization of black trade unionists. "We need the formalization of an institution to begin to deal with our problems," he said.

He added that change would only come about through struggle and called upon the CBTU to be vigilant, fight against discrimination on the job and support community issues.

40 Resolutions

In answer to Lucy, 40 resolutions were presented for adoption. These resolutions called for action to: **organize the unorganized, including the unemployed and welfare recipients, extension of OEO, Tax reform, nationalization of the nation's energy resources, condemning the Chile junta, political independence and impeachment of Nixon –**

along with additional resolution dealing with subject ranging from the image of labor in the Black community to a resolution calling attention to the significance of Section 7 of the Civil Rights Act.

The Convention was also addressed by Jerry Wurf, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Detroit's Mayor Coleman Young, Representative John Conyers, and U.A.W. president Leonard Woodcock.

Woodcock stated that the U.A.W. welcomed the formation of the CBTU, as it did the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). "The formation of these organizations would not divide the labor movement but strengthen it," he concluded.

While the conference gave hope to the struggles of the black worker, however, there was an ominous problem which haunted the assembly; the lack of involvement on the part of women.

While the black male is the victim of race discrimination, the plight of the black women is compounded by race and sex discrimination, and the struggle of the black worker can never be resolved without the emancipation of the black woman, who represents an integral part of this labor force.

Editorial *continued from page 4*

areas are under a national health care program.

Also, the shortage of personnel in health is immense. When one looks at the ratio of doctor to patient, the outcome is obvious. In the densely, populated areas of the ghetto, the ratio is 10 doctors to 100,000 people and one doctor for every 12,000 people in the inner city. But the well-to-do suburbs have one doctor for every 200 people. The poor simply do not have proper medical care.

Health care costs are skyrocking out of sight, and health care is as out of date as the horse and buggy. The most affluent country in the world is unable to provide decent health care for its members.

AIM supports free health care as a means of fulfilling the constitutional guarantee of "the right to life." We would like to replace the current program which gives our tax dollars to private profiteering doctors, and health institutions with local programs like Long Warf's Community Health Care Plan but free of charge.

Rape Crisis Center at 215 Park St. Will Begin its Programs on June 15

Nick Heyer

Coordinators of the Rape Crisis Center are left, Marcia Holly and right, Carole Johnson. The Center will be opening soon and will have a 24 hour crisis service for rape victims.

Organizers of the New Haven Rape Crisis Center anticipate that the center's services will be available to the public as of June 15.

Current plans are to offer support services to rape victims, educate women about prevention and self-defense,draft legislation which will alter the legal impression of women as deceptive and temptresses, and disseminate information about medical and legal procedures.

24 Hour Crisis Line

The Center will operate a 24-hour crisis line (397-CARE) staffed by women sympathetic to rape victims who are informed about medical and legal steps to be taken in the event of rape, and who will maintain liaisons with professional consultants.

Coordinators Marcia Holly and Carole Johnson say that the Center will offer both immediate and long-term services. "We plan to help women through the trying aftermath of rape, to befriend them during the medical examination and the police investigation, and to help victims deal with those people who continue to see rape as caused by the victim herself," says Dr. Holly.

Defense

"Another priority," says Ms. Johnson, "is to teach women self-defense techniques which will help prevent rape. Eventually, we will change the laws which actually protect men and which clearly assume women are liars, women want to be raped."

The Center will be staffed by volunteers, although Coordinators are attempting to raise funds. The organizers of the Center have implemented an unusual leadership structure, in which coordination responsibilities will alternate through the group every two months. Until a permanent Crisis Line is installed, women wanting help or information can call 562-5083 or 389-9843.

Planned Parenthood

continued from page 4

came the first in the state to hire a nurse-midwife, who performs all the services of a doctor. The nurse-widwife was received so well that another has been added and nurse supervisors are being trained as nurse clinicians.

The center has been innovative in other directions as well. In 1972 the only vasectomy clinic between New York and Providence was opened. The clinic is in operation every other Friday night and is open to anyone. The fee is on a sliding scale depending on the patient's ability to pay, as are all other Planned Parenthood services.

The New Haven center also runs a Teen Clinic from 5 to 9 pm on alternate Thursdays, providing counseling to young people on their sexuality. In addition, pregnancy screenings and abortion counseling and referrals are available to area residents.

In 1973 the center provided services for 3,833 people, and while the clientele spanned the economic spectrum, the average patient was of a slightly higher socio-economic class than those receiving services from agencies such as Family Planning.

One reason for this, according to Mrs. Neale, supervisor of the Orange Street center, is that Planned Parenthood is not ina location as easily accessible to many lower income residents as other clinics.

Referral

The New Haven center works with other agencies in and around the city in a referral capacity, and is part of a Federal Consortium for Family Planning. The Consortium, which includes Yale-New Haven Hospital, the Hill Health Center, the Urban League and other agencies, was established by a grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). Representatives of the participating groups met monthly to work out details for the sharing of resources and facilities. The Consortium is the only one of its kind in the state.

The center is privately funded and federally funded. It receives some income through service fees. The demand for services at the center excedes the resources now available. While the center would like to increase its patient capacity, it does not have enough money to expand. At the present time the center can only take on three new patients per week, the rest of the appointments going to revisits.

The bulk of the work at the clinic is performed by volunteers, who receive training in counseling, taking vital signs and assisting doctors. For many of the people - whether staff volunteers, members of the New Haven chapter, or the state organization - involvement is more than dispensing services.

They view their activity as a movement that began with Margaret Sanger's efforts in the first half of the century, and is continuing as the need for adequate contraceptive information continues.

Volunteers Wanted

Anyone interested in becoming involved with Planned Parenthood should get in touch with the local chapter. Volunteers for working at the center should contact Mrs. Neale at Orange Street. Appointments can be made and information obtained by calling 865-4250 anytime.

The Planned Parenthood League has literature, speakers, films and other information available. For particulars, contact the chapter on Orange Street.

School Notes

continued from page 2

There are other ways to look at this. An A in English a C in math may mean simply that the particular student does not respond well to rigid written tests (of which there are many in math) but is challenged by self-started projects and improvisational performances (by which English is apt to be characterized). It might also mean that the particular teacher can impart an interest in and enthusiasm for English, while his or her own distaste for numbers and equations is subtly communicated. Or the grades might indicate that this particular teacher is not giving the student work in English that would require the student's serious effort, while the assigned math work is unrealistic in view of the student's previous preparation.

It is possible, of course, that the grades represent an accurate evaluation of the student's academic skills. It is just as likely, however, that they reflect the student's response to the arbitrary teaching methods in use--or are an indication of the teacher's skills.

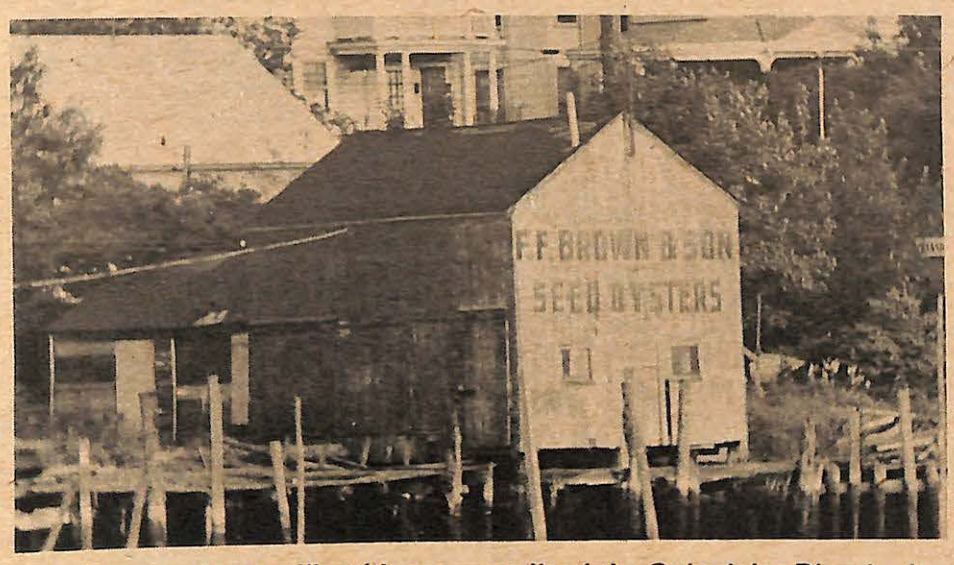
Report Cards for Teachers

What we need are report cards for teachers and administrators. Some universities have "course critiques" compiled by the students, which explain and evaluate each professor's style and knowledge. A few localities have included, in their report-card forms, a section in which the parent can write comments--good or bad--about the school and the teachers. These are some attempts at dialogue. More ways are needed, and they need to be utilized more widely, to allow for a total evaluation of the schooling process before evaluation of students can be really meaningful.

Pollution Clams Up Oyster Industry

by Ed Linehan

To anyone who has spent some time in the New Haven area the names Olin-Winchester, Sargents, Seamless Rubber Company, Gant Shirt, and Pratt & Whitney Aircraft are very familiar. These represent just a few of the industries that have been located here during the city's long history. Less familiar today, but equally important and until the turn of the twentieth century, was New Haven's Oyster industry.



Ed Linehan

Several oyster houses like this one once lined the Quinnipiac River back when the oyster industry was thriving.

Early Beginnings

For centuries before New Haven was founded by English colonists in 1638, the Quinnipiac Indians harvested oysters in the river that shares their name, as well as the harbor, West River , and Stony River.

It is not known whether they caught oysters by canoe or dug them up at low tide. However, huge deposits of shells have been discovered along the rivers and at old camp sites which indicate that this particular sea food was a frequent item in their diet.

Until 1800 the colonists, and subsequently the early nationalists, harvested oysters from the natural oyster beds, just as the Quinnipiacs had. During this time they were being marketed in the various inland areas. Between 1800 - 1820 the non-producing sections of the river bottom were "planted", and thus new beds were begun. Henry C. Rowe, a prominent oyster grower in the latter half of that century wrote that, "in 1820 there were few if any houses in Fair Haven that were not used for opening oysters."

Annual Oyster Race

Exportation of oysters began to really grow, with shipments going as far away as Canada. The industry became so large and competative that laws were established to ensure that native oysters did not become extinct due to over-harvesting. It became an annual event at midnight on November 1st, when the season opened, for hundreds of oystermen in small boats to race into the water as the churchbell rang-in the new day.

There are many stories of Fair Haveners playing tricks on occasional fishermen from other towns, usually with the victims boats or equipment being hidden.

Today there is little evidence of this once proud industry. Tons of refuge from mechanized industry on shore and from a concentrated population with inadequate waste treatment has all but completely destroyed it. The river bottoms and harbor which once provided the oyster cultures with all they needed to grow are now polluted.

Physically there are a few oyster houses still standing on the east side of the Quinnipiac River, south of Grand Avenue. You can have a very pleasant afternoon looking for them and noticing some of the older homes in the area. There are many fine examples of the Federal style of architecture (1790 - 1840's) all along the river, with a few on the west side as well.

Old Mystic Seaport provides another opportunity to see a slice of New Haven's past. The seaport is a historic museum village showing various mid-19th century seaport industries. They have recently acquired an oyster house from New Haven which is in the process of being displayed as it was over a hundred years ago. The seaport is an hours drive away, going east on I-95. Admission is $3.00 for Adults, and $1.25 for children. Lunch is available, but you can also bring a nice picnic lunch.

on the job Community Servant Aware of Needs

by Raymond Dubuque
East Pearl Street United Methodist Church

Clergymen come not only in different sizes, colors and denominations, but the jobs they perform vary a great deal, both within their churches and outside of them, in the larger community. The modern day equivalent of "minister" is "servant". I take that description of my occupation quite literally, and consider myself the servant of both a church and a community.

The *church* consists of a number of people who believe in the United Methodist way of understanding and practicing the teaching of Jesus Christ. The *community* consists of all those who live on the Fair Haven streets adjoining our church.

Individual Focus

One of the very first Christian clergymen, St. Paul, thought that God expected him to be "all things to all men." That's a little too ambitious for me. I'm content to be what I can to as many people as need me.

The one job everybody sees me perform is the leading of public worship. But the majority of things that I do you would only know about if you happened to be the person I was working with on an individual, confidential basis. For example, I was recently called to the hospital to comfort and pray with the family of a very sick patient. In the meantime, ballots were being counted to see if I was the person my neighborhood wanted to represent them on the Board of Directors of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation. As it turns out, I will be that person.

Variety of Activities

As the pastor of Fair Haven's United Methodist Church, I find it both a challenging and rewarding experience to oversee, coordinate, encourage, and sometimes help create the great variety of programs our Church operates or sponsors. Although others deserve most of the credit for these worthwhile endeavors, I often feel that my role is a lot like that of a traffic cop: I can't take credit for all the traffic, but a lot of things just wouldn't get done without me.

Rick Wolff

Raymond Dubuque, pastor of East Pearl Methodist Church

Much of a church's efforts go to serve its own members. People don't become church members because they are self-sufficient saints. They are people like everyone else, with human needs and failings. While they are concerned to "do good to all men as the opportunity may lend itself," they are aware that as St. Paul's letter to the Galatians goes on to say, "...especially to those who belong to the household of faith." And so, a church need not apologise for helping its own members first. "Charity," in that sense may "begin at home." But, if it *ends* at home, it is not charity at all, but some kind of disguised selfishness.

One cannot possess the authentic spirit of Christ and not be severely disturbed by the problems of one's neighbors. The East Pearl Street neighborhood happens to be an area with a lot of needs: most people around here have low incomes, limited education, inadequate housing, and few recreational opportunities. As a servant of this community, I feel I should be aware of the needs of its people and to do as much as possible to relieve those needs.

Because there are many groups in our society that are interested in helping people with many of the needs I see around me, I try to learn all I can about the services that all of these groups may be able to perform in this neighborhood. This is why you find me all over town, meeting with all kinds of groups. This is why I correspond with all kinds of people and groups. And this is why I ran for the position of neighborhood representative on the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation Board of Directors.

Fair Haven Improvement

Some large-scale improvements take a long time coming, like getting the City of New Haven to do justice to the people of Fair Haven. But, just as a mother forgets the nine months of pregnancy soon after a baby is born, so too, the time required to achieve large-scale improvements is easy to forget once you see people enjoying the fruits of your efforts.

I've been at this job for two years now, and I'm looking forward to the many challenges yet ahead. Whatever success I may achieve, I will owe a lot of credit to an incredibly fantastic wife, Jane, and some really outstanding kids: Kathy (18), Tricia (16), Brian (14), and Bethany (4).

Election Leaves Lots to Be Desired

by Tish Villecco,
Modern Times Staff

On June 5, Community Progress Incorporated (CPI) held elections in Fair Haven for the second time. In this election, Michael Pappacoda, a member of the Project Area Committee (PAC), won over Catherine Quinn, an independent. The vote was 295 to 251. The first election was cancelled due to so-called "irregularities," the biggest one being apparently that Mrs. Quinn won.

Also, one of the polling places was changed from the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation office - where Quinn received the majority of the votes in the first election - to the Fair Haven Community Health Clinic (FHCHC). The change made it difficult for many of her supporters, especially the elderly, to vote for her. Quinn was not invited to the meeting at which the decision to change polling places was made.

The monitoring of the election by the CPI overseer, Harold Peterson, left a good deal to be desired. Several persons reported that he had behaved in a drunken manner at times during the day and especially during the counting of the ballots.

Mrs. Quinn's showing was surprisingly strong considering the force arrayed against her. Not only was Pappacoda supported by the absentee-landlord oriented PAC, but by the regular democratic party "machine" as well.

Vicious Tactics

One example of the vicious tactics employed by the PAC-"machine" axis occurred at the Health Clinic. A Spanish-speaking woman, who was identified as an ally of the 13th Ward Democratic Party Chairman Joseph Carbone, was overheard instructing many Spanish-speaking people to vote for Pappacoda. Another voter, who became upset at overhearing this, approached the woman on the matter. When confronted, the Pappacoda supporter promptly fled the scene.

In many cases, according to many reports, voters had no idea of the issues or purposes of the election. These voters muttered—loud enough for others to hear—remarks like "I just got told to come down here to vote for Pappacoda."

The election of Pappacoda, who represents the land-holding interests of the area, makes a mockery of the CPI claim that a "representative" of the Fair Haven neighborhood now sits on its Board.

Rick Wolff

The re-election for CPI board member freom Fair Haven was held on June 5. Above, voters cast ballots at the firehouse on Lombard St.

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MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get this kind of news from profit-making commercial papers. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working men and women are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where the problems of employment and education, and housing and health care are told by the people who have to live with them.

This is the richest country in the world. Yet most of the wealth is used only by a few. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for paltry raises, waste our resources and labor on missiles and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the vested interests that run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care, and decent jobs.

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